

II. LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for approving item requests, comprising:

generating a hierarchy of approvers;

automatically determining an approver and any subsequent approver from the hierarchy based on an item in an item request;

logging an approver into an application used to make item requests;

displaying by the application a view containing a set of item requests to the approver containing all item requests from all requestors for which approval is requested from the approver, the set of item requests including a plurality of item requests from a plurality of requesters;

receiving an approval determination for at least one of the set of item requests from the approver; ~~and~~

updating an approver list corresponding to the at least one of the set of item requests based on the approval determination; and

in case that the hierarchy contains a subsequent approver, automatically forwarding an approval message to the subsequent approver in the approver list after the updating step,

wherein the receiving is adapted to receive a plurality of approval determinations from the approver simultaneously.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving comments from the approver based on the approval determination.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying an informational message to the approver, prior to receiving the approval determination.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~automatically determining the approver and a subsequent approver based on an item in the item request;~~

communicating an approval message to the approver prior to the logging step, wherein the approval message informs the approver of the at least one item request requiring approval; and

~~automatically forwarding the approval message to the subsequent approver in the approver list after the updating step.~~

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising verifying an authorization of the approver to make the approval determination.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising communicating a result message to a requestor based on the approval determination.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising updating an approval status corresponding to the at least one item request, wherein the approval status is selected from the group consisting of approved, rejected and pending.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the approval determination is selected from the group consisting of approved and rejected.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the approver list identifies approvers that have approved the at least one item request, and approvers that have yet to approve the at least one item request.

10-31. (Canceled)